

How can I become involved in the Family Leadership Team?

The Washington State Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) appreciates the work of the FLT. ITEIP believes it is essential to have parent input in federal and state policy and program work.

If you are interested in finding out more about the FLT or how to become involved in FLT meetings and activities, please contact:

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*Family Leadership Team (FLT) Summer Meeting and Potluck
August 2000 at Miller Park in Yakima, Washington*

The FLT is a standing committee of the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). The Washington State Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) within the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), provides funding to support the Family Leadership Team.

The Family Leadership Team (FLT)

The mission of the Family Leadership Team is to ensure the diverse perspectives of families are represented at all levels of the Washington State Early Intervention Services System. This system serves children, age birth to six, with developmental disabilities and/or delays, and their families.



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Discrimination is prohibited in all programs and activities. No one shall be excluded on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, age or handicap.

What is the Family Leadership Team?

The Family Leadership Team (FLT) is made up of family representatives and others from throughout the state of Washington concerned with early intervention services for children. The FLT is a committee of the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC).

Members provide the parent perspective on the state's early intervention system. They focus on representing families with children who have developmental disabilities and/or delays, ages birth to six.

FLT works to build relationships, share perspectives, and identify ways to improve early intervention services for all families receiving services. Finding out about individual family experiences is the best way to know how effective the early intervention system is for young children and their families.

The Family Leadership Team is always looking for family members and others concerned about services for children with disabilities and/or delays to join the team. A diverse group of voices is necessary to carry out this work.

Members are reimbursed for lodging, travel, and other expenses (i.e., child care) to attend meetings and participate in FLT sponsored activities and events.

What Does the FLT Do?

The Family Leadership Team:

- ▶ Works to improve access to quality early intervention services
- ▶ Provides advice and the parent perspective to the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) and the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)
- ▶ Supports and plans activities that enable policy planning to reflect family experiences
- ▶ Mentors and supports parent leaders in the early intervention system
- ▶ Works with statewide family support agencies and groups to ensure that family support needs are identified and met
- ▶ Participates in local councils to ensure family voices are heard at the community level
- ▶ Contributes articles and information to the ongoing Family to Family Bulletin – a newsletter for families with young children with disabilities and/or delays
- ▶ Provides parent perspectives on early intervention to local, state, and national conferences and trainings
- ▶ Participates in Family Gatherings



How Does the FLT Work?

Team members participate in a variety of ways, depending on their individual and family needs and circumstances.

FLT members:

- ▶ Network and get to know other parents/families on the FLT
- ▶ Hold a goal-setting meeting to decide the focus of the next year's activities
- ▶ Meet in coordination with quarterly SICC meetings
- ▶ Receive information from ITEIP and give their input/ideas about the early intervention system
- ▶ Communicate through conference calls, email, and the internet

FLT realizes that families are busy. You can be as involved as you choose.

Where Does the FLT Meet?

FLT members meet at various locations around the state, depending on the meeting and/or activity scheduled. FLT members usually meet in Olympia in January so that members can also attend legislative activities.